

Butte hosts driving workshop

The screeching of tires on the far runway was not being made by any kind of aircraft, nor were the puddles being caused by rain. But as a huge waterhose waved back and forth, driver instruction cars shot into the skid zone, sending up spray as their drivers slammed on brakes and tried to avoid the orange markers.

driving instructors at the Butte airport. Eight participated on June 5 and 6, and twelve on the 7th and 8th.

The program started in 1969 and while currently works more in law enforcement and school transportation areas, still responds to requests from schools across the country. Alaska was

fic safety, planning and training; and test drivers Russ Beadle, Jeanne Soubliere and Earl Ray.

Workshop participants accompanied the GM personnel through the course's specific exercise areas learning the dangers of mishandling the situation, the correct procedure for each case and practicing the correct

consisted of off-road recovery, skids, controlled braking and evasive maneuvers.

By the middle of the afternoon, the Montanans had honed their driving skills and were enthusiastic about passing this mastery on to their students. The instruction cars, loaded with personnel and equipment, quickly lined



The watered runway tests skid skills.



Off-road recovery—the good, the bad and the dusty.

Through the combined efforts of personnel from the Office of Public Instruction, the Butte-Silver Bow Airport, Butte School District Number 1, Western Montana College's Continuing Education program and the General Motors Proving Ground at Milford, Michigan, two two-day sessions of emergency driving techniques were provided for 20

their other visit for the spring of 1978.

Normally the GM crew provides the cars used for the strenuous driving segment but on a trip of this distance they relied on the cars, equipment, personnel and facilities furnished locally. They prefer actual school driving ranges but make adequate use of large, empty areas such as stadium or school parking lots or, as in Butte's scenic case, an airport runway.

After a three-hour classroom session at the Butte high school, the participants from eight Montana communities were ready for the behind-the-wheel segments with four GM representatives—R.A. "Doc" Whitworth, manager of traf-

maneuvers at increasing speeds. The Butte course

up behind the fire truck to head back to the terminal and shade. Then with lights flashing, the fire truck swung out onto the runway with cars strung out behind—an impressive ending to an impressive workshop. Except, the end car delayed the departure of its group by having a flat tire.

It happens to the best.



Wm. Patrick waits in the shade of the airport fire truck.



GM reps Whitworth, Beadle, Soubliere, Ray



Butte's Bob Eva demonstrates fundamental jacking procedure.

1983

Sept. 4	Labor Day
5-21	School Foods Services Div. Accounting Workshops - Anaconda, Plains, Missoula, Kalispell, Browning, Havre, Great Falls, Laurel, Glendive, Culbertson, Malta
11-15	FFA district workshops - Belgrade, Cascade, Custer, Hobson, Hinsdale, Park City, Roman, Sidney
17	Citizenship Day
16-20	Soc. of State Directors of Health Ed & Recreation Workshop - Gull Lake, MI
21-22	State Elementary Guidance & Counseling Workshop - Helena
22	Native American Day
22-23	Montana School Boards Assoc. Delegate Assembly Helena
24	Good Neighbor Day
26-29	OPI Counseling Clinics-Glendive, Billings, Great Falls, Missoula
29	ESEA Title IV part C carry-over funding deadline

Sep

Oct. 2-4	Nat. Trade & Industrial Ed. Conf. - Minneapolis
5-6	ESEA Title I Reg. Workshop - Kalispell
6-7	VICA/OEA/DECA Full Leadership Conf.-Bozeman
6-8	Western Reg. K-12 Safety Ed. Conf.-Palm Springs
7	Five Valleys Reading Council Conf. - Missoula
8	DECA Teachers Meeting - Bozeman
8-14	Nat. Schoolbus Safety Week
	Nat. Fire Prevention Week
9	Nat. School Lunch Week
11	Columbus Day
12-13	Nat. School Lunch Day
12-14	ESEA Title I Reg. Workshop - Helena
18-19	6th Annual NASBE Convention - Hershey, PA
18-20	State Federation of Teachers Convention - Butte
19-20	Reading Council Conference - Great Falls
	School Administrators Conference - Helena
	State Vocational Assoc. Meeting - Bozeman
23	Assoc. of Teachers of English State Convention - Great Falls
	MEA Statewide Convention - Great Falls
	Nat. Veterans' Day Observance
26-27	ESEA Title I Reg. Workshop - Billings

Oct

Nov. 1-4	Montana School Boards Assoc. Workshops and Annual Convention - Great Falls
2-4	DECA Western Reg. Leadership Conf. - Boise
7	Election Day
7-10	Nat. FFA Conference - Kansas City, MO
10	Assoc. for Supervision & Curriculum Dev. Fall Meeting - MSU
11	Traditional Veterans' Day
12-18	American Education Week
13-19	Nat. Children's Book Week
17-18	Adult Ed. Assoc. Annual Meeting - Lewistown
20-25	Council of Teachers of English Nat. Convention Kansas City, MO
23	Thanksgiving
Dec. 1-6	American Vocational Assoc. Convention - Dallas
3-8	Safety Education Nat. Conf. - Warrensburg, MO
10-12	NW Assoc. of Schools & Colleges Annual Meeting - Reno
25	Christmas

Dec

Nov

Jan. 1	New Year's Day
5	ESEA Title IV FY 79 funding deadline
20	OEA state officers workshop - Helena
29-30	Montana High School Assoc. Annual Meeting-Helena
31	Montana School Testing Service form deadline

Jan

Feb. 2-7	Nat. Assoc. of Secondary Principals Annual Meeting - Houston
4-10	Nat. Dental Health Week
5-19	Winter & Emergency Driving Workshop - Stevens Point, Wis.
11-13	Montana Assoc. of Elementary School Principals Conference - Fairmont
12	Lincoln's Birthday
14-17	American Assoc. of School Administrators Annual Convention - New Orleans
19	Washington's Birthday

Feb

Mar

March	Nat. Nutrition Month
1-7	Nat. Physical Ed. & Sport Week
4-10	Nat. Nutrition Week
14-16	State FHA Conference - Billings
14-17	Secondary English Conference - Pittsburg
15-20	Am. Alliance for Health, Physical Ed. & Recreation Nat. Convention - New Orleans
16	Montana School Testing Service tests due
19-24	Music Educators Nat. Conf., NW Div.-Billings
23-25	Nat. Conference on English/Arts in Elem. Schools - Hartford, CN
24-28	Nat. Assoc. of Elem. School Principals Conv.-Washington, D.C.
29-30	OEA State Leadership Conference - Billings
30-31	Music Festivals Districts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
(t)	Annual Montana Indian Ed. Conference

April

April 1-7	Nat. Library Week
4-6	State FFA Conference - Bozeman
4-7	Conference on Composition & Communication - Minneapolis
5-7	DECA State Career Development Conference - Missoula
6-7	Music Festivals Districts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13
9	County Superintendents Annual State Meeting - Helena
10	State Superintendent's Annual Conf. - Helena
11	Montana Assoc. of School Administrators Annual Meeting - Helena
12-14	NW District, Am. Alliance of Health, P.E. & Recreation Convention - Billings

May

April 15	Easter
16-18 (t)	State VICA Conference - Havre
20-21	State Solo & Ensemble Festivals, Southern - Bozeman
23-27	Internat. Reading Assoc. Annual Conf.-Atlanta
26-28	Montana Assoc. of Secondary School Principals Spring Conference - Bozeman
27	Arbor Day

May 1	Law Day
3-5	Montana Library Assoc. Conf., School Library Media Div. - Bozeman
4-5	Montana Assoc. of Language Teachers Meeting-Billings
5-7	Montana Shooting & Outdoor Ed. Workshop - Big Timber
6-7	Montana Traffic Ed. Assoc. Annual Conf. - Big Sky (t)
8-13	DECA Nat. Career Dev. Conf. - Houston
11-14	OEA Nat. Leadership Conference - Cincinnati
28	Memorial Day

Jun

June 10	Children's Day
11-15	Montana Outdoor Recreation Ed. Workshop - Livingston
14	Flag Day
25-30	VICA Nat. Leadership Conf. & Skill Olympics-Atlanta

CLASSIFIEDS

Applications open for 1979 School Library Media Award

A \$5,000 prize for the most outstanding achievement in providing exemplary media programs at the elementary level is being offered to school systems submitting applications for the 1979 School Library Media Program of the Year.

The awards program, now in its seventh year, is co-sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians and the Encyclopaedia Britannica Companies. It succeeds the EB School Library Awards given during the decade 1963-72.

The 1979 awards will be made during National Library Week, April 1-7, and as many as five other school systems also may be cited for the quality of their elementary media programs. Any school system—public, private, or parochial—is eligible to apply.

For application forms, write to the American Association of School Librarians, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, or to the Office of Public Instruction's Library Media Consultant. Completed applications must be submitted no later than November 13.

Sing along

Sheet music and full band scores for the song "Montana" are available by writing or calling Shodair Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 5539, Helena 59601 (442-1980). Interested persons also may wish to check with local music stores.

Two teacher center grants awarded

USOE grants to establish teacher centers have been awarded to Gallatin and Missoula County.

The centers will serve approximately 900 teachers and 14,100 students in the Bozeman area and 475 teachers and 8,000 students in the Missoula area.

The general purpose of the centers is to improve classroom instruction; however, Bozeman's center will concentrate also on developing inservice programs, idea exchange services and resources for material preparation. Missoula's center will emphasize the planning and implementation of an appropriate teacher center model.

A total of 486 proposals from throughout the U.S. was considered by Office of Education and only 60 received approval for funding. Grants were awarded to 37 states and Guam totaling \$7,425,000.



Ed Eschler, Nancy Bick, Supt. Rice

Girls Stater visits Superintendent

Nancy Bick of Billings, Girls' State Superintendent of Public Instruction, visited the Office of Public Instruction in June. With social studies consultant Ed Eschler as escort, Bick toured the office's various divisions and met with Superintendent Rice.

Reading conference scheduled in Missoula

The annual Five Valleys Reading Council Conference will be held Saturday, October 7, at the University Center, Missoula. The theme, *Literature Inspires Reading*, will spot-light two nationally recognized authorities in literature and reading. Dr. Caroline Bauer from the University of Oregon will demonstrate "Literature Enticements Through Creative Storytelling." She is a gifted storyteller, public TV broadcaster star on children's literature, and author of the current best seller, "Handbook for Storytellers." The second speaker, Dr. Alvin Granowsky, well-known for promoting parents as partners in learning and individualizing reading, will give an address titled "Light Up Kids' Eyes." In addition, sectionals will be offered covering topics such as creative dramatics; thematic literature; audiovisual media and literature; storytelling; poetry; new and popular books; literature and reading management systems; literature in the content fields including social studies, music and art; and OPI's "Criteria for Excellence for Reading Programs." Contact Geneva Van Horne, President, Five Valleys Reading Council, University of Montana, Missoula, 59812, for more information and registration materials.

National School Lunch Week

National School Lunch Week is October 8-14, with Wednesday, October 11, proclaimed as National School Lunch Day. The menu for that day includes:

- oven-fried chicken
- mashed potatoes & gravy
- carrot & celery sticks
- orange wedges
- angel biscuits & honey butter
- oatmeal-raisin cookie milk.

Helena to host health convention

Health, physical education and recreation teachers and administrators from throughout the state have been invited to attend the Montana Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation Convention October 19-20 in Helena.

The convention is designed each year to bring the latest information to teachers and leaders in the field. Sectionals will be given in a variety of health, elementary and secondary p.e., recreation, sports medicine and athletic areas.

For further information on convention activities, interested persons may contact Spencer Sartorius, Health and Physical Education Consultant, Office of Public Instruction.



Peggy Worden

Missoula student appointed as advisor to Board

The Montana Board of Public Education announced the appointment of Peggy Worden, a junior at Missoula Sentinel High School, to serve as student advisor to the Board for the Montana Association of Student Councils.

As a non-voting member, Worden was selected on the recommendation of a student screening committee to represent the interests of the state's high school students in all matters before the Board.

She is the daughter of H.O. and Tommie Lou Worden.

Contest open for themes stressing abilities of handicapped

Stimulating awareness of the abilities of handicapped persons and encouraging community acceptance of them is the purpose of a contest called "Ability Counts" sponsored by the Governor's Employment and Training Council. The theme of this year's contest is "A Ramp is a Step Ahead." Participating junior and senior students should submit themes based on interviews with handicapped persons, with employers, and with staff of such agencies as the Disabled Veterans Service, the Montana Association for Retarded Citizens, the Job Service, vocational rehabilitation offices, alcoholism information and treatment centers, and United Way. Themes or "survey reports" of no more than three pages are acceptable. Authors of the five top surveys will receive scholarship bonds in amounts of \$300, \$250, \$150, and \$100 donated by the Governor's Employment and Training Council, the Employment Security Division, the Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, the Human Rights Division, the Montana AFL-CIO, and the Office of Public Instruction. In addition, the student winning the first prize will receive a round-trip ticket to Washington, D.C. and \$100 for expenses provided by the Montana AFL-CIO to attend the Annual Meeting of the President's Council on Employment of the Handicapped. The deadline for themes is February 5, 1979 and the five winners will be selected by February 8. More details about the contest will be mailed to each high school English department chairperson. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Bowlds, Governor's Employment and Training Council, 35 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena 59601 (449-5600).

OPI hotline activity

Christy Shandy, Reception/Referral Desk Manager, transferred 3,699 hotline calls from Montana educators and citizens to the Office of Public Instruction staff during the months of May, June and July.

Montana Schools is published nine times yearly: September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, and May by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Capitol, Helena, Montana 59601. Marianne Hockema, Manager, Division of Public Information, Editor, Montana Schools; Tamara Stromquist, Publications. (406) 449-3401. Montana Schools is distributed in the public schools and to the members of boards, associations and organizations and to individuals concerned with education in Montana. Copies are available on request and comments are welcome. When reporting a change of address please include the label with the former address and computer code.

NEWSLETTERS

Pupil CONSULTANT TERRY BROWN Transportation Safety



"BUS TRANSMISSIONS"

Montana Conference on Pupil Transportation

The fifth annual meeting of the Montana Conference on Pupil Transportation was held at the Ramada Inn in Billings, July 12-14. The theme of this year's conference was "Safety is Our Business." This was the biggest and best conference yet as over 230 people attended.

July 12th

The Montana School Bus Driver's Association sponsored an American Red Cross First Aid and a Defensive Driving Course. Pat Straw of Billings conducted the multi-media first aid and CPR course that 33 people attended. Don Bissell, Manager of the Montana Safety Council, presented the DDC to 60 people.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Georgia Rice gave the welcoming address at the noon luncheon. The keynote address was given by W. "Red" Reynolds, Director of Governmental Affairs for the National School Transportation Association. His theme was, "Trends in Establishing National School Bus Standards." He told us that Montana often is used as an example nationwide because we have established some high standards in pupil transportation safety and he hopes that we continue to do the same in the future.

July 13th

Thursday morning conference participants attended a breakfast buffet and either the administrator's, contractor's or bus driver's meetings.

After breakfast, workshops were scheduled for the rest of the day.

The First Session "How to Hire and Fire a Bus Driver" was presented by Don Easton, an administrator from School District No. 2 in Billings.

The Second Session "Job Description and Evaluation of Bus Drivers" was moderated by Esther Nelson from Bozeman. Panel members were Ginger Zanto, Havre; Cliff Isbell, Belgrade; Bob Beach, Missoula; Warren Gamas, Glasgow and Ed Holland, Hardin.

The Third Session "Duties and Responsibilities of a Bus Driver" was moderated by Roy Morin from Billings. Roy's panel members were Captain Bob Griffith, Montana Highway Patrol, Helena; Elva Loyning, Roberts and Ed Holland, Hardin.

The Fourth Session "Duties and Responsibilities of School Administrators and Contractors" was moderated by Don Waldren from Libby. Panel members included Don Allred, Columbia Falls; Bob Beach, Missoula and Frank McElwain, Missoula.

July 14th

We were privileged to have as our guest speakers the 197B senatorial candidates Republican Larry Williams from Kalispell and Democrat Max Baucus from Missoula. Both candidates expressed concern for Montana and what they could do to help us at the national level of government.

During this session awards were presented to Burton Whiting from Twin Bridges as "School Bus Driver of the Year" and Ed Holland received the "Distinguished Service Award." Burt has contributed 30 years and Ed 40 years to school bus transportation in our state.

After a short break, the business meeting was called to order by chairman Don Waldren. Regular business was attended to and the conference was officially adjourned.

197B-79 Chairman, Steve Jones, announced that next year's conference will be held in Helena on July 11-13, 1979. Special thanks go to Dennis Espeland, Billings Lockwood, and his crew for hosting such a successful convention. Chuck Smith, Helena, and his committee will host the fifth annual conference next summer.



Conference Hostesses - Lockwood Busdrivers (L to R) - Phyllis Christopherson, Korky Goldsberry, Barbara Cosby, Vickie Harris, Supt. Dennis Espeland, Diane Bomar, Pat Kinsey, Jacque Holmquist, Lil Smith.

Social Studies

Ed Eschler, Consultant

Competency

Events may take place this school year which could have important impact on social studies programs. One influential issue may be competency education or competency testing. When the legislature convenes in January, one can anticipate the introduction of more than one bill pertaining to the competency question. It is imperative that social studies teachers communicate their feelings to their legislators on the competency question and all other educational issues.

Some discussion regarding competency education centers on the so-called basics and stimulates such questions as, "What are the basics?" and "What are competencies?" Some people feel that the basics include reading, writing and mathematics. They further believe that competencies involve certain skills associated with reading, writing and mathematics. In addressing the issue of competencies as they involve what can be thought of as "basic skills," proponents and opponents argue about definitions and especially about how to set an acceptable measure or level of competency and focus on whether or not competencies are best developed by a competency-based teaching program or by employing a testing program. The debate includes who has responsibility--the state education agency or the local school district? The Montana Office of Public Instruction believes the concern should be resolved at the local school district level.

As the competency question evolves, social studies teachers can be prepared to shoulder their share of the task. Regardless of what specific social studies area one teaches, he or she can ascertain what constitutes competency and what skills can be honed in a given class. In U.S. history, for example, reading skills are obviously of paramount importance. Yet, while many students have difficulty coping with the subject matter because of low

reading ability, many teachers wrongly assume their students read at the appropriate grade level. Social studies teachers would benefit by being sensitive to the reading abilities of their class members. More importantly, students would benefit if such sensitivity existed.

Social studies teachers can initiate action to reconcile students' reading ability with available subject matter materials. I am prepared to come to local schools and conduct inservice workshops dealing with reading in social studies classes. Such workshops can help teachers determine the readability for students of the materials used and also can aid teachers in learning how to calculate the reading levels of materials. Any person interested in such a workshop and the workshop materials used should contact me. This sort of workshop certainly regards the competency issue. Teachers who desire further information pertaining to competencies may wish to consult the following:

1. "The Competency Question," **The Social Studies: A Periodical for Teachers and Administrators**, Jan./Feb. 197B, Heldref Publications, 4000 Albemarle St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016.

2. "Seven Key Notes on Minimal Competency Testing," **Educational Leadership: Journal of the Assoc. for Supervision and Curriculum Development**, April 197B, Assoc. for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 1701 K St. N.W., Suite 1100, Washington, D.C. 20006.

3. "Improving Reading Skills: A Special Section Edited by John P. Lunstrum," **Social Education**, Jan. 197B, Nat. Council for the Social Studies, Suite 400, 2030 M St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

An associated concern which involves social studies is the implementation of Accreditation Standard 312.2. This standard, which was to have been fully operational during the 1977-78 school year, involves Montana schools in "...assessing the educational needs of each student." This standard is on page 22, **Standards for Accreditation of Montana Schools**, Third Ed. Teachers striving with competencies in social studies classes must learn the individual needs of students to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes that coincide with the perceptions of all concerned persons. Assistance is available to social studies teachers who wish to organize their classes in accordance with Standard 312.2.

Many social studies teachers are acutely aware of the numerous special concerns that citizens wish to incorporate into the curriculum. Recently, such areas as energy education, law-related education and economics education have received considerable attention. Please contact me if such service is desired. For example, certain energy education materials are available cost-free to teachers. Limited supplies of energy teaching units applicable to social studies are available and include: **How a Bill Becomes a Law to Conserve Energy** (Grades 9, 11, 12) and **Community Workers and the Energy They Use** (Grade 2). In law-related education a second edition of the Miles City produced book, **Kids, Cops, Courts and the Law**, is being printed. Interested persons may contact me or Star Publishing Co., Miles City 59301.

Guidance & Counseling

Neal Christensen, Consultant

The English Bulletin

Workshops

In September counselors will have the availability of two conferences, one will be primarily for elementary counselors and the other will be primarily for secondary counselors (the secondary gathering will be the annual Counselor Clinics).

Since elementary counselors don't usually fare very well at most workshops as far as content is concerned, I am using some grant money to promote elementary guidance and counseling. The Montana State Elementary Guidance and Counseling Workshop will be held in Helena, on Thursday and Friday, September 21 and 22. The featured workshop presenter will be Ms. Billie Jackson, Elementary Guidance and Counseling Consultant, Florida Department of Education, Tallahassee. Ms. Jackson is a nationally recognized expert in the area of elementary guidance and counseling. Her program will include many areas of concern from "Tell It and Sell It" to Adlerian Psychology and Parent Groups.

Grant money will be used to pay expenses for elementary counselors to come to Helena for this workshop. Persons selected were full-time elementary and junior high school counselors from various population and geographical areas. Those attending the two-day conference will be asked to provide inservice training in their school districts to administrators, teachers and school board members and give a minimum of two talks to local service clubs. Those attending the workshop will have an opportunity to improve their own counseling skills, techniques and program.

The 1978 Counselor Clinics will be held on Tuesday, September 26 at Glendive; Wednesday, September 27 at Billings; Thursday, September 28 at Great Falls and Friday, September 29 at Missoula. This year we will have a varied program consisting of sections on financial aid (both advanced for the more experienced counselor and beginning for the less experienced), ACT, College Boards, ROTC, Testing and Test Interpretation.

More workshops will be planned during the 1978-79 school year. The workshops will focus on topics that counselors and administrators indicated they wanted covered in the survey of May. Some of those areas already are included in the two aforementioned conferences. Other workshop content for this year includes group counseling processes and techniques, counselor role, family counseling, career education information, materials and curricula, behavioral techniques, law and ethics and job placement services.

Career Education

Counselors interested in resources for career education are invited to call Pat Feeley, Career Education Consultant, at 449-3806 or 1-800-332-3402. A new **Career Education Resource Directory** is now available which lists instructional materials, emphasizing teacher-prepared curriculum which infuses career education into existing instruction, funding sources for career education, career guidance ideas with suggestions for creation of career guidance centers, a list of career education programs and practitioners within the state, audiovisual resources, and a comprehensive bibliography. Pat also has suggestions for using the computer search services of OPI's Resource Center and for identifying materials available through the National Center for Career Education in Missoula.

The following are recommended as good starter materials for the school year.

1. **Career Development: Pupil Potentials Labs (and Who Am I?).** Robbinsdale Independent School District 281, 5530 Zealand Ave. N., Robbinsdale, MN 55422.

This guide discusses career development at the junior high level. The document consists of four sections: a sample directory, a Pupil Potentials Lab (PPL) staff packet, PPL student packet, and a personal inventory entitled "Who Am I?"

2. **Implementing a Career Guidance and Placement Center.** Susie B. Morgan and Barbara A. Pendleton, April, 1976. Available through ERIC. ED130103.

Guidelines on how placement should fit into the total school setting and in particular into career education. The school counselor is viewed as the coordinator of the total career guidance, counseling and placement program as well as having a major role in working directly with students.

3. **Career Resource Center: A Handbook for Implementation.** Robert Sullivan. New Jersey State Department of Education. Available through ERIC. ED112213.

This handbook is designed to help educators who are considering the establishment of a career resource center. Based on the writer's experience, the document is intended to provide practical assistance in the establishment of a high school career resource center.

Counselors looking for additional information on career guidance centers would do well to contact Marolane Stevenson, counselor at Hellgate High School in Missoula.

Beginnings

During the first month of school there are a number of classroom activities that can help students get to know each other and help teacher pinpoint students' strengths and weaknesses to assist in planning classroom activities.

The Paired Biography works well as an activity for early in the year. Have students pair off, interview, and write each other's stories a la **People** or **Us** magazines. These can be posted on a bulletin board or circulated within the class.

My Summer Vacation may be a bit worn out as a first theme topic. Some alternatives that might spark student writing include: "What I Didn't Do Last Summer," "What I Won't Do Next Summer," "Where I Would Go Next Summer If My Allowance Was Increased to \$1,000 Per Week." These papers can introduce you to the students as well as to their impromptu writing skills.

Survey the different kinds of writing demands placed on students. Ask them to keep a detailed log of the writing required of them in other courses. How often do they write in history...science...health? What papers/exams/reports/worksheets are required by other teachers? Pool the results from one or several classes and discuss them with students. The survey also can assist you in planning your teaching.

Discuss Grading with students so they understand the criteria by which their papers will be judged. Distribute copies of papers (sans names) from a previous class. Ask students to grade them individually, then to get groups of four or five and try to arrive at a consensus. Once the groups are finished, pool group results and ask the class' assistance in setting up the criteria for an A, B, C, D, and F paper based on how they graded. Incorporate their suggestions into a written explanation of criteria for composition grades, type it up and distribute it to the class.

Read Out Loud. As you are reading a story (O. Henry, perhaps) survey their body language and listening skills.

Questionnaires can be helpful. Devise an interest survey to get an idea about who the resources within your new class are (Who has traveled to California? Who loves motorcycles?). Plan to utilize each student during a unit where he/she has something unique to offer. This questionnaire also can help you spark interest at a later "lag time" during the year when you can refer them to a book, a story, a magazine that zeros in on one of their interests.

Scout Audiences for Student Writing. Convince an administrator to add a display bulletin board in the office for student writing. Locate a class in another part of the state for a class letter exchange. Volunteer student compositions on Halloween to accompany the pumpkin display at the local grocery store. Suggest that your class write annotations for library bibliographies.

Discuss Communication as being more than words. Collect several pictures from magazines. Cover the bottom half of the face and have students try to see what the eyes communicate. Uncover the entire face and see if the expression of the whole face confirms what they thought the eyes "seemed to say." Use a sentence to discuss what is communicated by stress on certain words. Read the sentence and stress a different word each time. How does the difference in emphasis change what the sentence says?

I like the students in our school.

I like the students in our school.

I like the students in our school.

I like the students in our school.

I like the students in our school.

Create a Writing Center. Set aside a place in the classroom with various writing supplies. Include a wide variety of paper textures, shapes, sizes; a wide variety of writing tools including felt pens, crayons, pens; various reference materials, word lists, dictionaries, word files. Elementary children can dictate stories into a tape recorder that will later be written or typed for them; older students can use the space for writing poetry, stories, letters or plays that are not a part of regular classroom assignments.

Checklists can be developed during units to help students get a very concrete idea about what has to be accomplished. It helps them monitor their own day-to-day progress and assists them in internalizing the step-by-step process. For example, if you want to teach critical listening skills, you might (with your students' help) develop an initial checklist of those criteria that constitute critical listening. You could start by asking them the difference between critical listening and just listening. As they give specific examples, list them on the board. Formulate an open-ended list and ask pupils to add on to it for a few days as they observe people listening. Using the information you have acquired, compile a checklist of critical listening behaviors you and your students agree are necessary for effective functioning. The checklist can be used by students as a form of self-evaluation; can be used by you as a reminder of those behaviors to be encouraged as you teach; can be used as the basis for developing criterion-referenced tests; can be used as a mastery checklist by converting it to a grid. Both the process of developing a checklist and uses of it afterwards can be of benefit to students.

Plan to take care of some of your own professional needs. The 1978 Montana Association of Teachers of English State Convention will be held October 19 and 20 at the College of Great Falls. Over 20 language arts workshops will be offered during the two days. Write to Dr. John Bean, English Department, College of Great Falls, for conference information.



Important Notice!!

Beginning September 1, 1978, all Montana teachers of traffic education must have a minimum of 12 quarter hours of credit course work in traffic safety education or a related field. Thereafter, for each succeeding renewal of the teacher's certificate the teacher must accumulate 6 quarter hours of additional credit course work in traffic safety education or a related field, until such time as an endorsable minor, or equivalent, has been completed.

Applications Due

School district applications for approval of a traffic education program(s) for the 1978-79 school year and summer 1979, are due and must be approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction before the program begins. To obtain approval for a traffic education program and to be eligible for reimbursement a school district must complete and submit the application form entitled, "School District Application for Approval of a Traffic Education Program(s) for Student Drivers." This application form can be obtained from the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Traffic and Safety Education Consultant Curt Hahn. If your school application is already in, it is not necessary to submit it again for this school year. Please be advised that all traffic education vehicles used in an approved program must be equipped with a first-aid kit, flares or reflector warning devices, and a fire extinguisher located in the passenger compartment.

Seat Belt Convincer

Have you seen Montana's new **Seat Belt Convincer**? This device is permanently mounted on a trailer. The Montana Highway Patrol is scheduling the use of the unit for county fairs, safety council activities, traffic education classes and other activities. Persons wishing to use this equipment should contact their local MHP division captain or Colonel Joe Sol, Chief, Montana Highway Patrol Division, Department of Justice, Helena 59601.

Montana Accident Data Available

Specific statewide accident data is available to all traffic education instructors by writing to: Al Goke, Administrator, Highway Traffic Safety

Division, Department of Community Affairs, Helena 59601, or by calling 449-3412.

Lemons on the Loose

Was your car a lemon? More than one-third of all vehicles recalled because of safety defects are never inspected and fixed. You can find out whether the make, model and year of any car has ever been recalled--your own or one you're considering buying. Just phone NHTSA's toll free line, 1-800-424-9393, during office hours or write Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Services, NHSTA, 400 7th St. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. NHTSA will not be able to tell you whether a specific car was repaired. For that, contact the manufacturer and furnish the vehicle identification number.

Noteworthy Resource Materials

A Resource Curriculum in Driver and Traffic Safety Education. Cost: \$4.00. Available from: Michigan State University Press, Nesbitt Building, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Scholastic Wheels Magazine. Cost: \$1.95 if you order twenty subscriptions to one name, one address. Fewer than twenty: \$3.50 each. Write: **Scholastic Wheels Magazine**, 902 Sylvan Ave., Box 2001, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. This quarterly magazine is designed as a student-oriented classroom resource. It will reach your students twice each semester with highly motivational, easy-to-read-and-discuss features like: Drivers and The Law, Car Maintenance, The Driver as Consumer, Cars of the Past and Future, The Psychology of Driving, Automobile Safety, Driving Statistics, and New Trends and Developments.

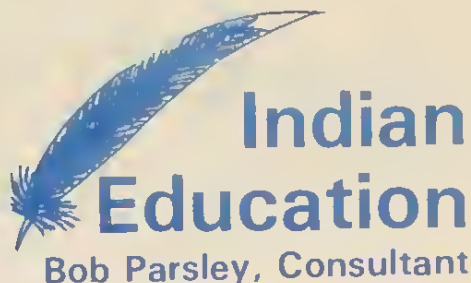
Driving, Drinking and Drugs, A Research Report. A free-loan film which presents an up-to-date picture of the latest laboratory research under way involving drugs and driving. To order this 16 mm sound and color film, send your name and address, along with your desired playdate and alternate playdate to: Modern Talking Picture Service, 2323 New Hyde Park Rd., New Hyde Park, NY 11040. When ordering film please refer to Code No. DE31997. The film will be sent to you prepaid. You are to return it prepaid parcel post.

Shell Answer Books. Would you like some excellent, well-written booklets on such topics as: driving emergencies, driving a vehicle for 100,000 miles, handling breakdowns etc.? These booklets are available free by writing: Shell Answer Books, Box 61609, Houston, TX 77208.

Travel and Camper Trailer Safety. This free brochure provides safety guidance for owners of travel and camper trailers. It is available by writing: General Services Div./Distribution, NHTSA, 400 Seventh St. SW, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Upcoming Traffic & Safety Education Events

October 6-8, 1978	K-12 Safety Conference	Palm Springs, CA
December 4-8, 1978	Sixth National Conference on Safety Education	CMSU Warrensburg, MO
February 1979	Emergency Driving Workshops	Stevenspoint, WI
May 1979	Montana Traffic Education Conference	



Title IV Grants

Each year the U.S. Office of Indian Education conducts technical assistance conferences for its Title IV--Part A grantees. The date and location of the proposed conference for Montana grantees is Denver on Sept. 14, 1978, at the Cosmopolitan Hotel. For further information and agendas, please call the Part A program specialist for Montana, Ms. Denise Gosliner at (202)245-2683.

Education Committee

The Montana Inter-Tribal Policy Board has established an Education Committee and Sub-Committee to provide all Montana educators and tribes a forum for discussing issues of mutual concern with the backing of the Board. For more information about these committees, call Bill Yellowtail at 638-2914 or Tom Whitford at 245-2228.

Native American Day

During the 1975 session of the Montana Legislature, a resolution was passed designating the fourth Friday in September of every year as Native American Day. This resolution calls for the people of Montana to participate in appropriate ceremonies and activities in order to reflect on the contributions Indian people have made to our great nation. Native American Day is on Sept. 22 this year. All schools in Montana are encouraged to observe this day in some way with appropriate activities.

Resources

"The Indian in the Classroom," readings for teachers with Indian students, is available to Montana teachers free by either writing or calling Bob Parsley, manager, Division of Indian Education. This document gives educators a brief introduction to the history, culture and contemporary affairs of the American Indian and is intended to stimulate further research and involvement in Indian education.

"The Indian Reading Series, A Primary Language Arts Program Developed by Indian People of the Plains, Plateaus and Coast" presents authentic Indian legends and contemporary stories. The books are entertaining and show how different Indian tribes explain the world around them and show one another how to live. When used along with a basal reading program, the books are designed to improve reading comprehension, classroom participation and written and oral language skills. For information contact: Educational Systems Inc., 2360 S.W. 170th Ave., Beaverton, OR 97005.

Indian Teachers Form MEA Caucus

In a move to encourage greater involvement of Indian teachers in the

MEA, the Board of Directors authorized formation of a Native American caucus at its Nov. meeting. Caucus Chairman Malcolm Bailey of Billings said that Indian teachers want to be recognized as a positive force within the MEA and that the caucus would give them a needed voice in MEA affairs. For more information contact Mr. Bailey at 2939 Stinson, Billings 59102.

Indian Studies Inservice Workshops

Two district sponsored inservice workshops developed for the purpose of complying with Montana's Indian Studies Law have already been approved by the Office of Public Instruction for the 1978-79 academic year. Approximately 1500 certified personnel completed OPI approved inservice workshops last year. This figure does not include extension courses which have been set up through the state's colleges and universities. The workshops have been set up on one of three ways: 1) compliance with the Indian Studies Law only, or 2) with the added option of equivalency credit for certificate renewal, and/or 3) college credit.

The following is an excerpt from written comments given to an inservice coordinator: "I found that by looking at something in a new way for a slightly different purpose, much that was not visible before takes new light and adds to my understanding...Whether a legal requirement or for general interest, the experiences in the class help two separate groups of people toward better comprehension of each other." On-site coordinators--some from within the school system and others from the reservation community--have devoted many hours of their time to the development and delivery of useful Indian Studies workshops, each one being tailored to meet the needs of a particular community.

Many of the Office of Public Instruction staff were involved in an Indian Studies inservice workshop during the summer months. Consultants were brought in from each reservation in the state to cover the content areas as specified in the law and the **Indian Culture Master Plan**.

Dan Decker and Carmen Taylor of the Equal Learning Opportunities Division, and Bob Parsley of the Indian Education Division, are available to assist school districts who wish to develop and implement Indian Studies inservice workshops. During the summer months they also have given presentations in Indian Studies classes and workshops at colleges in the state.

Classroom Materials

The Equal Learning Opportunities Division of the office is acquiring materials which can be utilized by teachers in their classrooms as well as by school districts sponsoring inservice workshops to meet compliance with the Indian Studies Law.

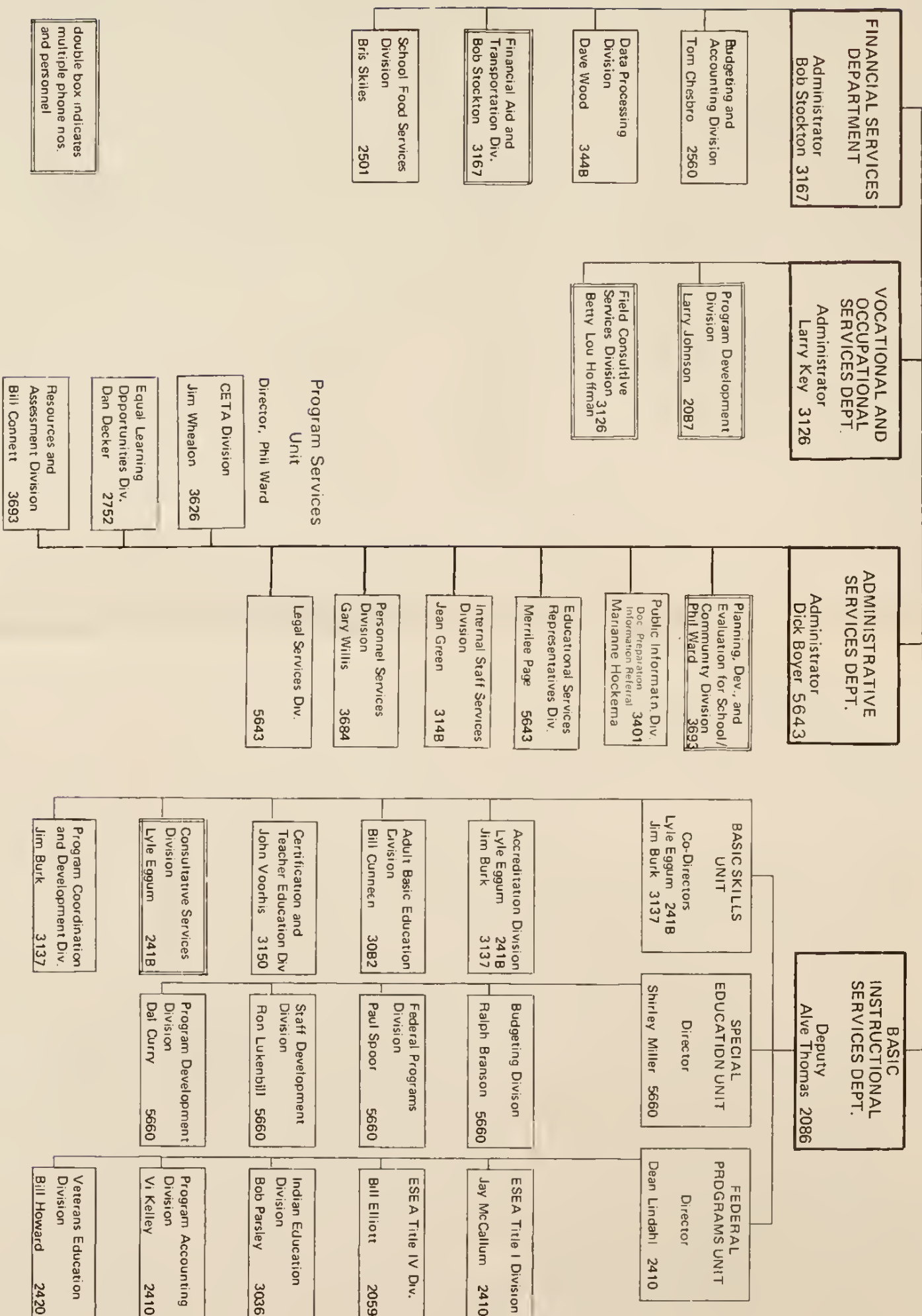
These materials are not only a useful classroom tool; but for those teachers involved in an Indian Studies inservice, the use of these particular materials provides relevant and informative method of completing the outside 60 hours of activities which is required under the inservice option. A list of materials available can be obtained on request from the Equal Learning Opportunities Division.

July 1978

Personal Secretaries
Bonnie Crawford
Carolyn Wolfe 3654

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Georgia Rice

TOLL-FREE NUMBER
1-800-332-3402



From the SUPERINTENDENT

Competency testing



GEORGIA RICE

I believe that students in Montana, in accordance with the Constitution, have a right to an education which can prepare them to leave school with the ability to cope with everyday problems and future opportunities. This ability must include basic skills in reading, communication, computation and practical experiences necessary to lead a productive life. I do not believe that mandated competency tests from either the federal or state level administered as a requirement for graduation will create a better educational system or improve the skills of the students. Tests are an important educational tool but, in my estimation, a competency test used in isolation presents four major problems.

1. Students will be judged according to a statistical norm rather than on the basis of individual capabilities.
2. There will be substantial costs not only in developing, administering and scoring the test, but also in remediation and possible litigation.
3. The minimum competencies mandated by a test could easily become the maximum competencies expected.
4. Teachers and administrators would feel pressured to adjust curricula and teaching strategies to conform to test questions.

Historically, Montanans have advocated and successfully practiced local control of education in their communities. Based on the success of Montana schools, I believe there is evidence that this philosophy is sound and should be continued. By careful study of alternatives to mandated competency testing, I believe Montana can avoid the negative and costly situations experienced by other states. For example, an alternative is goal-based education developed, implemented and evaluated by local school officials, teachers and parents. The Office of Public Instruction can assist in this endeavor with our Montana School Testing Service and with our consultative services. Many districts currently are involved in this process and we hope to assist many more.

I believe in a quality education but I do not believe that mandatory competency testing will improve the quality of education in Montana. Education will improve when a local effort is initiated emphasizing the development of student potential rather than the development of test scores.

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at Helena, MT 59601

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